

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01204 161327Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01
(ISO) W

-----101456 161641Z /75

O 161226Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7478

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALLAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1204

DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LONDON FOR ASST SEC MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, FR, ZA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: FRENCH APPROACH TO SAG ON CAPRIVI SITUATION

1. THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED US COPIES OF THEIR
REPORTS TO PARIS OF APPROACHES BY AMBASSADOR SCHRICKE
TO BRAND FOURIE AND PIK BOTHA ON THE SITUATION IN
CAPRIVI. ON JUNE 14 IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S
WARNING ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK
ON ZAMBIAN TERRITORY, FOURIE RESPONDED THAT A FORMAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 01204 161327Z

DENIAL HAD JUST BEEN GIVEN TO JOURNALISTS BY THE
MINISTER OF DEFENSE. SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID, HAD NO
INTENTION TO ATTACK ZAMBIA. FOURIE, NEVERTHELESS,
REMINDED SCHRICKE OF WHAT BOTHA HAD TOLD THE CAPE
TOWN FIVE ON JUNE 13: IF SWAPO ENGAGED IN NEW
AGGRESSION, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD REACT; THE QUESTION WOULD
THEN BE THE ORIGIN OF AGGRESSION.

2. THE NEXT DAY, JUNE 15, SCHRICKE SAW PIK BOTHA ON THE SAME SUBJECT. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF THE RELEVANT TEXT OF THE FRENCH REPORTING CABLE ON THIS CONVERSATION:

QUOTE: FOR MR. BOTHA, THE REASON FOR THE RUMORS ON THIS MATTER IN LUSAKA IS THE DESIRE TO SADDLE SOUTH AFRICA IN ADVANCE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT COULD TAKE PLACE. THE MINISTER SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT A MILITARY OPERATION BY SWAPO AGAINST THE CAPRIVI STRIP IS BEING PREPARED. I TOLD MR. BOTHA THAT IN ANY CASE, SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS SHOULD NOT CROSS THE ZAMBIAN FRONTIER. THEY WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO REPULSE OR CAPTURE IN NAMIBIA ITSELF AN ADVERSARY WHOSE MEANS WERE LIMITED. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT IN CASE OF AN ATTACK BY SWAPO FROM ZAMBIAN TERRITORY THE SOUTH AFRICANS COULD BE LED TO ENTER THAT TERRITORY. I STRESSED THE CONSEQUENCE SUCH AN OPERATION COULD HAVE AND RECALLED THAT, DURING THE ALGERIAN WAR, FRANCE HAD FOREGONE CROSSING THE MOROCCAN AND TUNISIAN FRONTIERS WHICH HAD PROTECTED THE FUTURE OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THOSE TWO COUNTRIES. MR. BOTHA TOLD ME THAT HE HAD MADE "A GROSS ERROR" IN ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF THE FIVE WITHOUT SETTING ANY CONDITIONS. THIS HAD GIVEN AN ADVANTAGE TO SWAPO WHICH HAD SET ITS OWN CONDITIONS, AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE CRITICIZING HIM FOR IT. IN EFFECT, EVEN IF THE MINISTER THINKS MORE IN POLITICAL THAN MILITARY TERMS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 01204 161327Z

IT WILL NO DOUBT BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM, BECAUSE OF THIS "ERROR," TO OPPOSE, IF THE QUESTION ARISES, A HOT PURSUIT OPERATION WHICH COULD BE PROPOSED BY THE MILITARY AND THE PRIME MINISTER. END QUOTE. EDMONDSON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED USDEL SECRETARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET01204
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0317
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780652/aaaabskz.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b329e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2326754
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: FRENCH APPROACH TO SAG ON CAPRIVI SITUATION
TAGS: PORG, PBOR, MOPS, SF, WA, FR, ZA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b329e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014